

Testimony in Support of HB 2332

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to submit testimony in strong support of HB 2332, a practical and necessary step to ensure regulatory efficiency for air curtain incinerators in Oregon. This bill prevents the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) from requiring a burdensome Title V operating permit for certain air curtain incinerators that exclusively burn wood waste, clean lumber, or yard debris—unless otherwise mandated by federal law or EPA regulations.

In rural Oregon, responsible land management is essential, and air curtain incinerators provide an efficient, environmentally sound method for disposing of excess wood waste and debris. These incinerators help mitigate wildfire risks by reducing hazardous fuels, particularly in forested and agricultural areas, where the buildup of such materials can contribute to devastating fires. Requiring a Title V permit for these operations creates unnecessary regulatory hurdles, increasing costs and slowing efforts to responsibly manage our lands.

HB 2332 ensures that state-level regulations do not exceed federal requirements, striking the right balance between environmental protection and practical land management. By exempting qualifying air curtain incinerators from Title V permits, we can help landowners, foresters, and agricultural producers continue essential wildfire prevention and waste management practices without undue regulatory burden.

I urge the committee to support this common-sense legislation, which promotes responsible land stewardship while maintaining environmental safeguards. Thank you for your time and consideration.